

104TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3280

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to guarantee the public's right to know about contaminants in their drinking water.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 18, 1996

Mr. WAXMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to guarantee the public's right to know about contaminants in their drinking water.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Water Quality Public  
5       Right-To-Know Act of 1996”.

6       **SEC. 2. CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORTS.**

7       Section 1414(c) of title XIV of the Public Health  
8       Service Act (the “Safe Drinking Water Act”) (42 U.S.C.  
9       300g–3(c)) is amended by inserting “(1)” after “(c)”, by  
10      redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs

1 (A) and (B) respectively, by redesignating subparagraphs  
2 (A) and (B) of paragraphs (1) and (2) as clauses (i) and  
3 (ii) respectively, by striking “this subsection” the first 2  
4 places it appears and inserting “this paragraph” and by  
5 adding the following new paragraph at the end thereof:

6 “(2) CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORTS BY COMMU-  
7 NITY WATER SYSTEMS.—

8 “(A) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONSUMERS.—The  
9 Administrator shall issue regulations within 3 years  
10 after the date of the enactment of this paragraph to  
11 require each community water system to issue a re-  
12 port at least once annually to its consumers on the  
13 level of contaminants in the drinking water purveyed  
14 by that system (hereinafter in this paragraph re-  
15 ferred to as a ‘consumer confidence report’).

16 “(B) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The consumer  
17 confidence reports under this paragraph shall in-  
18 clude, but not be limited to, each of the following:

19 “(i) Information on the source, content,  
20 and quality of the water purveyed.

21 “(ii) A plainly worded explanation of the  
22 health implications of contaminants present at  
23 levels that exceed maximum contaminant level  
24 goals or health advisories.

1           “(iii) Information on compliance with na-  
2           tional primary drinking water regulations.

3           “(iv) Information on priority unregulated  
4           contaminants to the extent that testing methods  
5           and health effects information are available (in-  
6           cluding levels of cryptosporidium, arsenic, and  
7           radon where States determine they may be  
8           found).

9           “(C) COVERAGE.—The Governor of a State  
10          may determine not to apply subparagraph (A) to  
11          community water systems within the State serving  
12          fewer than 3,300 persons or other systems, provided  
13          that such systems inform their customers that they  
14          will not be complying with subparagraph (A) and  
15          will make information available upon request to the  
16          public regarding their water quality.

17          “(D) ALTERNATIVE FORM AND CONTENT.—A  
18          State exercising primary enforcement responsibility  
19          may establish alternative requirements with respect  
20          to the form and content of consumer confidence re-  
21          ports under this paragraph.”.

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